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09/933,493	08/20/2001	Stefan M. van den Oord	MOBJ-01000US0	6164

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FLIESLER MEYER LLP
650 CALIFORNIA STREET
14TH FLOOR
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94108

EXAMINER	
BURGESS, BARBARA N	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
2157	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/933,493	VAN DEN OORD ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Barbara N. Burgess	2157	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *04 May 2007*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-15,17,24-27 and 29-37* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-15,17,24-27 and 29-37* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

This Office Action is in response to Amendment filed May 4, 2007. Claims 1-15, 17, 24-27, 29-37 are presented for further examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1- 15, 17, 24-27, 29-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Payne et al. (hereinafter "Payne", US Patent Publication 2002/0087514 A1) in view of Danielsen et al. (hereinafter "Danielsen", US Patent 6,993,723 B1).

As per claims 1, 24, 29, 32-33, Payne discloses a system, user interface mechanism, and method of providing session-based retrieval and at a client system of string-based content from a server comprising:

- A communication protocol that enables connection between a client system and a server system, and allows the client system to send, within a single session between the client system and the server system, a lengthening string composed of

a plurality of consecutively input characters, to query the server system for string-based content (paragraphs [0004, 0017]);

- A client object, in communication with a client software at the client system and with the communication protocol, wherein the client object receives additional characters from the client software, and as consecutive characters are being received, transmits to a server object at the server system a plurality of consecutive queries, within the same session, to retrieve content from the server system, wherein each consecutive lengthens the query string by additional characters, to form a lengthening string for retrieving matching content from the server system (paragraphs [0020, 0022, 0039, 0064]);
- A server object, in communication with the server system, and with the client object via the communication protocol, wherein the server object in response to receiving the consecutive queries that form the lengthening string, automatically uses the lengthening string to query and retrieve content information from the server system that matches the lengthening string, and wherein the server object returns, while the additional characters are being input and the string is being lengthened during the session, increasingly matching content information to the client object for immediate use by the client system (paragraphs [0040-0041, 0047, 0065]).

Zim does not explicitly disclose:

- A communication protocol that enables an asynchronous session based connection between a client system and a server system;

- Asynchronously returns increasingly relevant content information to the client object for immediate use by the client system.

However, it is well-known to one of ordinary skill in the art the advantages of using a communication protocol that enables an asynchronous session and asynchronously returning relevant content as evidenced by Danielsen (column 4, lines 19-25, 40-43, 55-63).

Therefore, one or ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have found it obvious to incorporate or implement Danielsen's asynchronous session and asynchronously returning relevant content in Payne's system allowing search to take place for each character.

As per claim 2, Payne discloses the system of claim 1 wherein said client object operates on or at a first computer and said server object operates on or at a second computer and wherein both of said first and said second computers are connected via a network protocol (paragraph [0093]).

As per claim 3, Payne discloses the system of claim 1 wherein said server object and said client object runs on the same computer (paragraph [0047]).

As per claim 4, Payne discloses the system of claim 1 wherein said server object runs on a plurality of separate computers, and wherein said client queries received during the session are distributed over said separate computers (paragraph [0067]).

As per claim 5, Payne discloses the system of claim 1 wherein said server object stores previously received strings and returns said stored strings to the client in response to new client queries received during the session, without accessing said content (paragraph [0057]).

As per claim 6, Payne further discloses the system of claim 1 wherein said client software is embedded into a software application that provides a visual interface to an operator that the server object is currently using the lengthening query string against the content of the server system to query and retrieve content information from the server system and allows the operator to add additional characters to lengthen the query string, while simultaneously receiving increasingly matching results from the server (paragraph [0046]).

As per claim 7, Payne discloses the system of claim 1 wherein said client software is used as a content engine for another software system (paragraph [0066]).

As per claim 8, Payne discloses the system of claim 1 wherein said client software accumulates a plurality of said single character queries as they are entered into the client, before sending them together as a single query string to said server (paragraph [0051]).

As per claim 9, Payne discloses the system of claim 1 wherein said client software stores previously received responses from the server in a cache at the client and uses the previously received responses as the response to a new query by the user, without reassessing the server (paragraph [0053]).

As per claim 10, Payne discloses the system of claim 1 wherein said client software stores a pre-defined string and automatically transmits it to the server as the client software is first accessed, and wherein additional entry of query characters is not required before server responses are sent to the client (paragraph [0054]).

As per claim 11, Payne discloses the system of claim 1 wherein said server stores the state of query and response of the client software, and restores the state of the client software after any interruption in said communication protocol (paragraph [0066]).

As per claim 12, Payne discloses the system of claim 1 where said client software adds a qualifier to the query that is passed to the server, whereby the server can use said qualifier to execute the query and return appropriate results based on both the query string and its qualifier (paragraph [0068]).

As per claim 13, Payne discloses the system of claim 1 where said client software identifies a user of the system to the server whereby the server can store

statistics and provides a history of queries and corresponding responses appropriate to said user (paragraph [0054]).

As per claim 14, Payne discloses the system of claim 1 where said server system comprises a server tier and a syndication tier, and wherein said client software communicates to the server tier on a single computer, and wherein each query is forwarded by the server tier and the syndication tier to an appropriate syndicate of content channels connected to the server tier on a different computer (paragraph [0057]).

As per claim 15, Payne discloses the system of claim 1 where said server applies a content dependent pattern and filter to characters received from the client before queries are matched against the content (paragraph [0069]).

As per claim 17, Payne further discloses the system of claim 1 where server responses comprise lists of strings, wherein each string is accompanied by corresponding metadata, whereby the metadata contains logical links to other data sources of Uniform Resource Identifiers (paragraph [0071]).

As per claim 25, Payne discloses the mechanism of claim 24, wherein said user interface element is an application input field (paragraph [0064]).

As per claim 26, Payne discloses the mechanism of claim 24, wherein said session indicator displays a triangular display element to indicate the presence of said session, and does not display said triangular display element to indicate the absence of said session (paragraph [0066]).

As per claim 27, Payne discloses the mechanism of claim 24, wherein said status indicator displays one, or a plurality of arrow display elements to indicate the transfer of data from said client application to said server during said session, and the presence of available session-specific content at said server (paragraph [0061]).

As per claim 30, Payne discloses the method of claim 29 wherein the server object matches each query received form the client against an in-memory cache, and returns cached content to the client without accessing said content engine, unless the cached content has expired since it was last received from said content engine (paragraph [0055]).

As per claim 31, Payne discloses the method of claim 29, wherein the server analyzes the time between said consecutive queries received from each client system, and skips selected ones of said consecutive queries to reduce network communications and the load on said content engine (paragraph [0046]).

As per claim 34, Payne discloses the system of claim 1, whereby the client object indicates the selection of the content sources to be queried to the server when said session is initiated and when content source selection changes are needed thereafter, without needing to embed said content source selection with each of said consecutive string-based queries (paragraph [0048]).

As per claim 35, Payne discloses the system of claim 1 .whereby said session is shared by multiple client objects that exchange messages with the same server system, whereby each client object identifies a different content source selection to which said consecutive queries from the individual client object will be mapped by its corresponding server object (paragraph [0051]).

As per claims 36-37, Payne discloses a system and method for providing session-based searching of string-based content from a server, comprising:

- a user interface that allows a user at a client to enter a string of consecutively input queries to query the server for string-based content, wherein each consecutive query lengthens the query string by one or more additional characters (paragraphs [0045, 0064]);
- a communication protocol that transmits, via a client object at said client, to a server object at the server, the plurality of consecutive queries, to retrieve content from the server, wherein each additional character is immediately transmitted to the server object as the user is entering the additional characters in the user

interface, to form an lengthening query string for retrieving content from the server (paragraphs [0004, 0017]);

- a server object which in response to receiving each query as it is being lengthened or shortened by the one or more additional characters, automatically matches the lengthening query string against the content of the server, and, as the user is entering queries (paragraphs [0040-0041, 0047, 0065]).

Payne does not explicitly disclose:

- A communication protocol that enables an asynchronous session based connection between a client system and a server system;
- Asynchronously returns increasingly relevant content information to the client object for immediate use by the client system.

However, it is well-known to one of ordinary skill in the art the advantages of using a communication protocol that enables an asynchronous session and asynchronously returning relevant content as evidenced by Danielsen (column 4, lines 19-25, 40-43, 55-63).

Therefore, one or ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have found it obvious to incorporate or implement Danielsen's asynchronous session and asynchronously returning relevant content in Payne's system allowing search to take place for each character.

Response to Arguments

(d) Applicant's argument has been considered but is moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

3. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Barbara N Burgess whose telephone number is (703) 305-3366. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00am-4:00pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on (703) 308-7562. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Barbara N Burgess Examiner

Art Unit 2157

July 21, 2007

ARIO ETIENNE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100